

A NEW JACK ARMSTRONG ADVENTURE

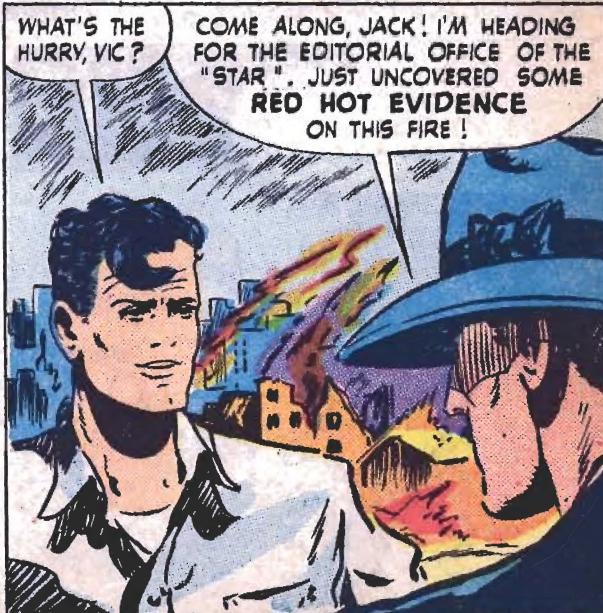
# SHOT in the DARK

WHEN A FOUR-ALARM FIRE HURLS ITS RAGING HEAT THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN SECTION OF A LARGE MIDWESTERN CITY, THERE'S ONE COOL HEAD IN THE CROWD... AND THAT BELONGS TO VIC HARDY, FRIEND OF JACK ARMSTRONG AND CHIEF OF THE SCIENTIFIC BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION !



WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE FIREBUG'S FRIEND... A CAN OF METALLIC SODIUM !

WHAT'S THE HURRY, VIC ?



COME ALONG, JACK ! I'M HEADING FOR THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF THE "STAR" . JUST UNCOVERED SOME RED HOT EVIDENCE ON THIS FIRE !

AT THE "STAR," VIC AND JACK HAVE A TALK WITH EDITOR ED NIXON!

BUT WHAT'S ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?

DON'T YOU SEE, MR. NIXON? VIC HAS EVIDENCE THAT THE FIRE WAS **DELIBERATELY SET** IN A BUILDING OWNED BY JEFFERS...

... WHICH MEANS THAT BOSS JEFFERS HAD A FIREBUG DO THE JOB SO THAT HE COULD COLLECT INSURANCE ON HIS BURNED BUILDING!

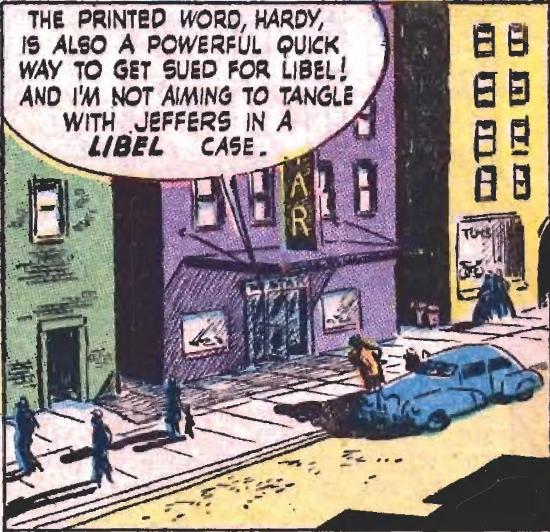


AND YOU EXPECT ME TO PRINT **THAT** WITHOUT ANY MORE EVIDENCE THAN A CAN OF SOUP—OR SODIUM, OR WHATEVER IT IS?

IT'S YOUR CHANCE, NIXON, TO PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE MOST BRAZEN CROOK IN TOWN. THE PRINTED WORD IS A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT FOR GOOD.



THE PRINTED WORD, HARDY, IS ALSO A POWERFUL QUICK WAY TO GET SUED FOR LIBEL! AND I'M NOT AIMING TO TANGLE WITH JEFFERS IN A **LIBLE** CASE.



AT THAT MOMENT...

SOMEBODY'S LIABLE TO GET HURT IF I DON'T GET THAT SODIUM CAN—PRONTO!



STAY WHERE YOU ARE FOR TEN MINUTES—OR YOU'LL BE LEAKIN' LEAD ALL OVER YOUR PRETTY NEWSPAPER OFFICE!

C'MON, MAC, WE GOT THE STUFF—LET'S BLOW!



NEXT DAY, IN VIC'S CRIME LAB -

I CAN'T EXACTLY BLAME NIXON FOR NOT PRINTING THE STORY. JEFFERS' HOODLUMS WOULD TEAR THE "STAR" TO PIECES !

THAT MUG JEFFERS CAN'T DO THIS TO THE "STAR" - IT'S UNCONSTELLATIONAL !



FUNNY THING ABOUT BOSS JEFFERS... NOBODY HAS EVER SEEN HIM ! EVEN THE FBI DOESN'T HAVE A PHOTO OR A PRINT ON HIM.

WONDER HOW HIS THUGS KNEW WE HAD THE SODIUM CAN ?



SPEAKING OF THE FBI, THEY WIRED ME TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A GANG OF WAREHOUSE THIEVES OPERATING ON THE STATE BORDER.



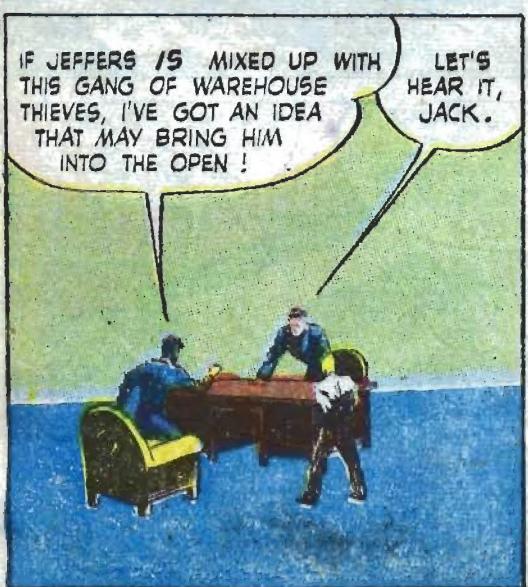
PROBABLY MORE OF JEFFERS' DIRTY WORK... HE SEEMS TO HAVE A CORNER ON CRIME HEREABOUTS !

EVERY CORNER HAS ITS TURNING, BILLY, AND JEFFERS IS NO EXCEPTION !



IF JEFFERS IS MIXED UP WITH THIS GANG OF WAREHOUSE THIEVES, I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT MAY BRING HIM INTO THE OPEN !

LET'S HEAR IT, JACK.



"WELL, SUPPOSE WE PLANT A NEWS ITEM IN THE 'STAR' THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO JEFFERS AND HIS MOB..."



NEXT DAY...

NIxon GAVE THE STORY A  
GOOD SPLASH — THE CROOKS  
WILL BE SURE TO SEE IT.

THEY'LL SEE IT, ALL RIGHT —  
BUT WILL THEY **BELIEVE** IT?  
EVEN NIxon THINKS IT'S A  
GENUINE NEWS ITEM!



GUESS I'LL GAS UP,  
JACK, WE'RE  
GETTING LOW.



HEY, GET A LOAD OF  
THIS! A NEW KIND OF  
CAMERA THAT TAKES  
PICTURES IN THE  
DARK!

OF COURSE, IT'S AN  
INFRA-RED DEVICE ...  
LIKE THE GUNSIGHTS  
USED IN THE WAR FOR  
FINDING THE ENEMY  
AT NIGHT.



I'M GONNA GET ME ONE OF THOSE  
GADGETS — IT HAS INTERESTING  
POSSIBILITIES!

BILLY, IF THOSE  
CROOKS SHOW  
UP AT THE WARE-  
HOUSE TONIGHT, YOU'LL  
HAVE ALL THE INTERESTING  
POSSIBILITIES YOU CAN  
HANDLE!



WELL, SO LONG! SEE  
YOU TONIGHT AT THE  
WAREHOUSE!

BE THERE BEFORE DARK.  
WE WANT TO GET THE  
JUMP ON JEFFERS ...  
IF HE SHOWS UP.



IT'S RISKY BUSINESS,  
JACK — IF JEFFERS' MOB  
SHOWS UP THERE'LL BE  
GUNPLAY, SURE AS ...  
SURE AS ...

SURE AS SHOOTING,  
VIC, SURE AS  
SHOOTING!

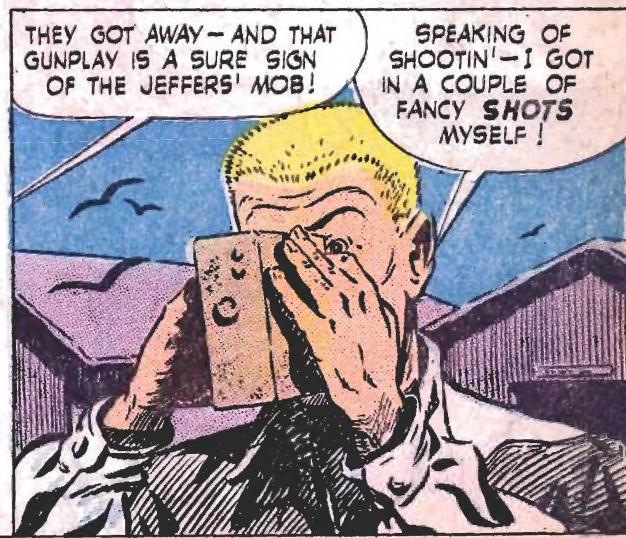


THAT NIGHT IN A WAREHOUSE ON THE OUT-SKIRTS OF THE CITY...

LOOKS LIKE THE FISH PASSED UP THE BAIT.

SHH! HERE COMES A CAR, NOW!

THREE STEALTHY FIGURES QUICKLY ENTER THE BUILDING.



HALF AN HOUR LATER, IN VIC'S LAB...

THAT INFRA CAMERA I BOUGHT THIS AFTERNOON CAME IN HANDY!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE PRINTS, BILLY!

TOUGH LUCK! THE THUGS ARE MASKED... THESE PRINTS DON'T TELL US A THING.



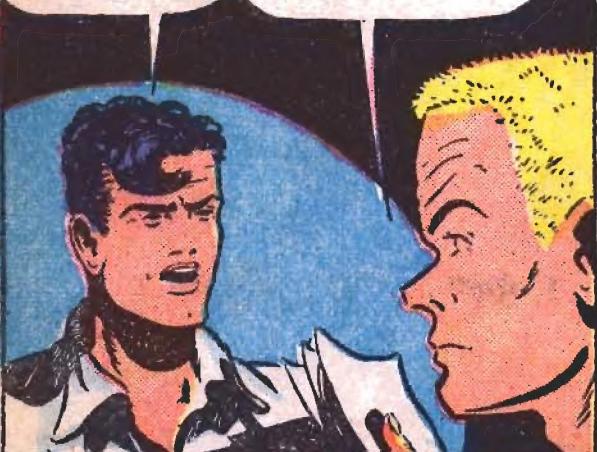
LET ME HAVE THE NEGATIVES, BILLY. I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

AND I THOUGHT I WAS BEING A SUPER-SLEUTH! HERE THEY ARE, JACK.

A FEW MINUTES LATER JACK DASHES OUT OF THE DARKROOM...

TAKE A LOOK AT THESE ENLARGEMENTS!

WHAT'S ENLARGEMENTS GOT TO DO WITH IT? THE CROOKS ARE MASKED!



MAYBE THEY ARE... BUT ONE OF THEM SHOULD HAVE WORN A MASK OVER HIS RIGHT HAND, TOO! LOOK!



BY GEORGE, YOU'RE RIGHT, JACK! IT'S THE VERY SAME RING... LET'S GO!

